

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 9, 1973

(SALT TWO-302)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF OCTOBER 9, 1973.

MR. MINISTER,

AT OUR LAST MEETING, THE SOVIET SIDE AGAIN PROPOSED THAT
THE UNITED STATES UNILATERALLY WITHDRAW CERTAIN CENTRAL AND
NON-CENTRAL FORCES, INCLUDING THOSE DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF ITS
SECURITY OBLIGATIONS TO ITS ALLIES. THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WOULD
WORK BASIC CHANGES IN REGIONAL MILITARY BALANCES, WITHOUT DEALING
WITH THE SITUATION WHICH NECESSITATES OUR DEFENSIVE ALLIANCES AND
THE DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. FORCES AT SEA AND ABROAD.

MR. MINISTER, THE "BASIC PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONS" OF
MAY 29, 1972, AGREED TO AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED
THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET
UNION IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND
DOES NOT AFFECT ANY OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO OTHER COUNTRIES

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EARLIER ASSUMED BY EITHER SIDE. THE "BASIC PRINCIPLES OF NEGOTIATIONS"

OF JUNE 21, 1973, ALSO STATE THAT THE SIDES WILL BE GUIDED BY THE RECOGNITION OF EACH OTHER'S EQUAL SECURITY INTERESTS, WHICH, AS THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE CLEAR, EMCOMPASS THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF OUR ALLIES.

MR. MINISTER, I MUST REPEAT THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT CONSIDER IN THESE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ONE SIDED PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE THE SECURITY OF OUR ALLIES OR OUR ABILITY TO SUPPORT OUR ALLIANCE OBLIGATIONS, AND THUS WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THOSE PRINCIPLES.

ON MAY 15, AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PROPOSAL I MADE ON MAY 8, I STATED THAT THE U.S. SIDE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER IN A PERMANENT AGREEMENT RECIPROCAL ASSURANCES TO THE EFFECT THAT NEITHER SIDE WOULD CIRCUMVENT THE AGREEMENT THROUGH THE DEPLOYMENT OF NON-CENTRAL SYSTEMS. SUCH ASSURANCES WOULD MEET THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES THAT A PERMANENT AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE CIRCUMVENTED THROUGH THE DEPLOYMENT OF SYSTEMS NOT LIMITED BY THE AGREEMENT. SUCH ASSURANCES WOULD NOT AFFECT EXISTING OBLIGATIONS OF EITHER SIDE WITH RESPECT TO OTHER COUNTRIES, AND WOULD PROVIDE AN EQUITABLE AND DEFINITIVE SOLUTION TO THIS ISSUE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS PRESENTED SPECIFIC PROPOSALS COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDANCE WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. WE HAVE ELABORATED ON THESE PROPOSALS IN DETAIL, AND WE HAVE SUPPORTED THEM WITH AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF THE RATIONALES ON WHICH THEY ARE BASED. JOHNSON

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